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Welcome to Oslo

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Ruby Guyot

Oslo, Norway

January 30, 2017

Welcome to Oslo



A beautiful sunset. The view from my window!

Greetings from Oslo, Norway! I've been here for nearly a month now and every day I wake up to the fresh cold air and charming apartment buildings that encircle my student dorm. Although it's winter, the weather has not been as nearly as bad as I would have thought it would be—most days it's been in the 20s or 30s, so not much different from Linfield or Portland this time of year.

We have class Tuesday through Friday in the mornings, with plenty of time for hanging out with friends and balancing homework afterwards. On an average week, my friends and I will go grocery shopping on Mondays, when we don't have class. Grocery stores are located all around Oslo but are much smaller than American ones, resembling more of a mini-mart than a true supermarket. Vegetables and fruit can be bought cheaply at the market in Grønland, near a diverse part of the city. For meat, dairy, snacks, and delicious Norwegian chocolate, the Rema 1000 or Coop Prix is perfect.

During the school days we'll go to class, either by walking (about a 12 minute distance from our student housing in St. Hanshaugen) or, if you feel like walking a bit less, the bus ride takes the same amount of time. After school, you might grab a quick bite to eat with friends at the cafeteria, or you can go home and take a nap! Others may choose to take their lunch to the Vigeland Sculpture Park, watch people ski at Holmenkollen, or stroll down Karl Johans gate for some shopping. With so much time in the day, there is plenty you can do, and Oslo's excellent public transport makes getting places easy.

At night we usually cook our meals together at the same time, eating at the table like the family of exchange students we are! Most students are from Europe, with a few from Africa, Asia, and North America. Then friends may gather to watch movies together, or others will relax or do homework in their rooms. We love to go to the cafes here to get our work done—a nice change of pace, and delicious hot chocolate!

By the time you set your head down for bed, you're already thinking of what you will do tomorrow, what your lecture will be on, and what kinds of things you'll need to get from the grocery store—most likely chocolate!

Ruby